

REMARKS

In response to the outstanding Office Action, dated October 15, 2004, Applicant submits the following remarks.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner stated that the submitted Information Disclosure Statement failed to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2). Applicant has filed herewith an Information Disclosure Statement including a copy of WO 99/00281, thereby complying with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2).

Claims 1-3 and 5-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by JP 11263214 to Oka et al (referred to herein as the JP '214 reference). Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by JP11198796 to Oka et al. (referred to herein as the JP '796 reference). Claims 7 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the JP '214 and '796 references in view of JP 569818 to Uno et al (referred to herein as the JP '818 reference). Claims 1, 4-6, and 9 were amended. Claims 3, 8, 10, and 11 have been cancelled. Claims 12-23 have been added. Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9, 12-23 are pending.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to include a switchable travel rate feature such that the primary piston travels at a greater rate than the boost piston during normal boosted braking when the boost valve supplies fluid from the source of pressurized fluid to the boost chamber. None of the references disclose such an arrangement wherein one of the pistons travels at a greater rate with respect to the other. With regard to JP '796, it is noted at column 19, line 64 to column 20, line 5 that this reference discloses that the effective pressure receiving area of the power piston 8 is the same as the effective pressure receiving area of the MCY piston 47. This arrangement is similar with respect to the JP '214 patent. For at least these reasons, claim 1 is patentable over the cited references and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Since claims 2, 4-7, 9, and 12-19 are dependent on claim 1, they also are patentable.

With regard to new claim 20, it is noted that the none of the references disclose a pressure regulator valve for providing a limiting controlled pressure level from the source of pressurized fluid to the boost valve, wherein the pressure regulator valve is in fluid communication with the source of pressurized fluid and the boost chamber. Contrary, JP '796 discloses using a relatively expensive solenoid proportional control valve 63 and a pressure regulating valve 64 to control the pressure between the high source of pressure (pump and accumulator) and the reservoir.

With regard to new claim 22, it is noted that none of the references disclose an input mechanism, as structurally defined in claim 22, for providing a greater boost gain in the beginning of a braking operation.

In view of the amendments and above remarks, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, an early Notice Of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Any fees due in connection with this Amendment should be charged to Deposit Account No. 13-0005.